

# ecoNews — Wire —

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**May 13, 2004**

**For immediate release**

- 1. Two new items added to May 17 EPC agenda**
- 2. Diesel fuel in School Creek contained**
- 3. Beach monitoring begins; swimming advisory policy updated**
- 4. Bike to Work Day promotes clean air and better health**
- 5. New requirements for well pump installers to go into effect**

## **TWO NEW ITEMS ADDED TO MAY 17 EPC AGENDA**

DES MOINES – Contracts for an urban stormwater management program and low-cost loans for conservation practices have been added to the May 17 agenda of the Environmental Protection Commission.

Other items on the agenda include a proposed increase in Title V fees as part of the air quality fiscal year 2005 budget.

The EPC will meet on Monday, at 10 a.m., at the DNR office, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- Project AWARE Update
- Toxic Cleanup Day Contract Amendment
- Final Rule - Amend Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) 567- Chapter 11, "Tax Certification of Pollution Control or Recycling Property"
- Notice of Intended Action - Amend IAC 567 - Chapter 105, "Organic Materials Composting Facilities"
- Notice of Intended Action - Amend IAC 567 - Chapters 120 and 121, and Adopt new Chapter 120, "Landfarming Petroleum Contaminated Soils"

- Notice of Intended Action - Rescind IAC 567 - Chapters 215, "Waste Tire Management County Grant Program;" 216, "Regents Tire-Derived Fuel Program;" and 217 "Waste Tire End-User Incentive Program"
- Storm water Program Update
- 2004 TMDL Assessment Monitoring and Laboratory Services Contract with University Hygienic Laboratory
- Contract - Clear Channel Communications
- Interagency Agreement for the Linn County Air Quality Program
- Interagency Agreement for the Polk County Air Quality Division Program
- Air Quality - Title V Fee SFY 2005 Budget (Cost Centers 1430, 1556, 7230 & 7421)
- Proposed Rule - Air Quality Program Rules Chapters 22 and 23, Updates, Revisions and Additions
- Referral to the Attorney General
  - City of Lidderdale - penalty collection
- Monthly Reports
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Project Contract
- IDALS Contract for SRF Local Water Protection Project Set-Aside
- General Discussion
- Items for next month's meeting

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR website under Commissions and Boards at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com).

The members of the commission are Kathryn Murphy, Chair, LeMars; Terrance Townsend, Newton; Lisa Davis-Cook, West Des Moines; Darrell Hanson, Manchester; Lori Glanzman, Mt. Pleasant; Jerry Peckum, Jefferson; Heidi Vittetoe, Washington; Francis Thicke, Fairfield; and Donna Buell, Spirit Lake. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

**For more information, contact Karen Grimes, at (515) 281-5135.**

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## **DIESEL FUEL IN SCHOOL CREEK CONTAINED**

IOWA FALLS – Most of the diesel fuel that spilled during cleanup activities Tuesday at an old Farmland plant east of Iowa Falls has been recovered, but the DNR has upped the estimate from the reported 55 gallons spilled, calculating that as much as 330 gallons may have been in the tank.

“We got the pure product vacuumed up on Wednesday and flushed the tile line to remove any residual fuel in the line,” said Trent Lambert, an environmental specialist from the Mason City DNR field office.

Workers from an environmental cleanup company are walking the stream today, blowing

any pooled product into the main part of the stream so that it can be captured downstream where a water bypass dam was constructed.

Lambert says cleaning up the remaining sheen could take two weeks or more depending on the amount, stream flow rates, rainfall and natural degradation of the sheen.

“There is still no sign of a fish kill and the diesel fuel has been contained between the outfall and the dam, with no sign of it reaching the Iowa River,” Lambert said.

“I would urge anyone who has a situation like this to report it immediately to the nearest DNR field office, since much, if not all, of this spill could have been contained prior to entering the creek if it had been reported as soon as it occurred,” he said.

The spill occurred when a tank was moved by the new owner of the former Farmland facility, Tom Vanderpool. Liquid diesel ran into a tile intake and was carried through the tile line for about three-quarters of a mile to the creek.

The spill was reported when golf course employees at the Meadow Hills Golf Course noticed fuel running into the creek.

The spill was contained when the DNR worked with the Iowa Falls Fire Department, Street Department and Hardin County Secondary Road Crew to construct a water bypass dam on Tuesday. The bypass dam held the diesel fuel but allowed clean water to flow on downstream. Absorbent pads and booms isolated the diesel fuel at the tile outfall.

The DNR will continue to investigate and monitor the clean-up.

**For more information, contact Trent Lambert, at 641-424-4073.**

**NOTE TO EDITORS: photos of the water bypass dam are available from the DNR by calling Karen Grimes at 515-281-5135.**

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## **BEACH MONITORING BEGINS; SWIMMING ADVISORY POLICY UPDATED**

DES MOINES — As the swimming season at Iowa state park beaches approaches, the DNR is preparing for its 2004 beach monitoring season.

Water samples are taken weekly at Iowa’s 37 state park beaches and compared to water quality standards to determine the risk of waterborne illnesses for swimmers. Monitoring at most beaches will begin the week of May 24 and conclude the week of Oct. 31.

Weekly results will be posted on the DNR Web site at [www.iowadnr.com/news/beach.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/news/beach.html).

Testing from the past four seasons of beach monitoring has shown that Iowa beaches are safe for swimming most of the time. From 2000 to 2003, beaches exceeded the geometric mean standard — a type of average calculated using five results over 30 days — less than 4 percent of the time. Beaches exceeded the one-time high standard less than 6 percent of the time.

This year, 35 of Iowa's 58 county-run beaches have volunteered to participate in the beach monitoring program, sampling from the week of May 31 through the week of September 6. While weekly monitoring results from these beaches will be posted on the DNR Web site, county beaches *will decide independently* whether or not to post swimming advisories when bacteria levels run high.

**State park** beaches will post a “swimming is not recommended” sign if:

- The geometric mean exceeds the water quality standard (five samples in a 30-day period exceeds 126 colony-forming units of *E. coli* bacteria per 100 ml of water)
- The beach is classified as “vulnerable” (see list below) and one sample exceeds Iowa's one-time maximum standard (235 colony-forming units of *E. coli* bacteria per 100 ml of water)
- The beach is classified as “less vulnerable” and two consecutive weekly samples exceed the one-time water quality maximum standard (235 colony forming units of *E. coli* bacteria per 100 ml of water). Beaches *not* on the “vulnerable” list are considered to be “less vulnerable” beaches.

Beaches in the vulnerable category include:

- Backbone Lake
- Beed's Lake
- Clear Lake
- Geode
- George Wyth
- Lake Darling
- Lake of Three Fires
- Prairie Rose
- Rock Creek
- Union Grove

Beaches that have had one or fewer exceedances of the state standard in the last four years will be monitored less frequently. These beaches will be monitored on a weekly basis from the week before Memorial Day through Labor Day. All other state-owned beaches will be monitored the week before Memorial Day through October 31.

Beaches that will be monitored less frequently include:

- Black Hawk
- Blue Lake
- Brushy Creek
- Green Valley

- Gull Point
- Lacey-Keosauqua
- Lake Ahquabi
- Lake Anita
- Lake Keomah
- Lake MacBride
- Lake Manawa
- McIntosh Woods
- Pleasant Creek
- Red Haw
- Triboji

The DNR reserves the right to close a beach in the event of a documented health risk including things such as (but not limited to) wastewater bypass, spills of hazardous chemicals, or localized outbreaks of an infectious disease.

An informational guide explaining the beach monitoring process and test results is available on the DNR Web site at [www.iowadnr.com/news/beach.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/news/beach.html) or by contacting Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131. The guide offers definitions to common beach monitoring terms, offers help in reading monitoring data and clarifies common questions about swimming advisories.

**For more information, contact Janice Boekhoff at (319) 931-6050 or Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131.**

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## **BIKE TO WORK DAY PROMOTES CLEAN AIR AND BETTER HEALTH**

DES MOINES – Des Moines area residents can help to improve air quality and their own health – all in one day. Bike to Work Day will be held on Friday, May 21. Participants have the opportunity to ride with other cyclists, get a free breakfast at the downtown YMCA and win free prizes.

“Bike to Work Day supports clean air alternatives for commuters,” said Brian Button, DNR air quality information specialist. “Not only does riding a bike to work release zero emissions into the air, but the health aspect is also tremendous.”

Registration is free for the event, and participants are encouraged to cycle to work for more than just Bike to Work Day. Special bicycle parking will be available downtown in the parking garage at 8th and 9th Streets and Grand and Locust in the northeast corner.

“With gas prices going up, biking to work as alternative transportation is a great way to save money,” said Angela Dalton, Bike to Work Day co-coordinator. “Most commuter

vehicles in the Des Moines area tend to have only one occupant, so keeping just one car off the road is beneficial.”

For more information and to register for the event, go to [www.bikeiowa.com](http://www.bikeiowa.com).

**For more information, contact Angela Dalton at (515) 281-4554 or by e-mail at [Angela.Dalton@legis.state.ia.us](mailto:Angela.Dalton@legis.state.ia.us).**

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## **NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR WELL PUMP INSTALLERS TO GO INTO EFFECT**

DES MOINES — New certification requirements for private well pump installers will go into effect this summer.

All private well pump installers will need to be certified, as established by House File 583 in the 2002 legislative session. Any contractor who installs private well pumps, pitless adapters, and/or plumbing and electrical equipment from the well up to and including the pressure tank, must be certified.

Certification has been required for well drillers since 1992 to ensure the protection of groundwater through proper well construction. Certifying pump installers, who also have an effect on the potential contamination of wells, will further help to protect groundwater resources and enhance the long-term effectiveness of private wells as a viable drinking water supply.

The proposed regulations will take effect after July 1, pending final approval from the Environmental Protection Commission.

Certification includes an experience requirement, test and certification fee. Any current pump installer who can document at least two years of experience in pump installation and registers with the DNR by July 1, 2004 will be certified without testing.

After registering, contractors will be sent a certification form and will need to submit the initial certification fee of \$250, which covers the first two years of certification. Every two years afterwards, the certified contractor must obtain 10 classroom hours of continuing education and pay a \$200 certification renewal fee on July 1 of every even-numbered year.

Registration forms may be obtained by contacting the DNR at (515) 725-0284 or by visiting the following Web site: [www.state.ia.us/epd/wtrsupply/files/04pumpform.pdf](http://www.state.ia.us/epd/wtrsupply/files/04pumpform.pdf).

**For more information, contact Brent Parker at (515) 725-0337.**